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AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please substitute the following paragraph for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

A nematic liquid crystal composition having a negative dielectric constant anisotropy, comprising one or more compounds selected from the compounds represented by (IA) and (IB) of 10-70% by mass, one or more compounds selected from the compounds represented by (IIA) to (IID) of 10-70% by mass, the total content of one or more compounds selected from the compounds represented by (IA) to (IID) being 35-80% by mass, and a compound represented by (III) of 20-65% by mass:

(IB)
$$R^3 \longrightarrow Z^2 \longrightarrow P$$
 OR^4

(IIA)
$$R^5 - C^3 - C^4 - C^6 - C^6$$

(IIB)
$$R^7 - C Z^5 - Z^6 - C Z^6 - C$$

(IIC)
$$R^9 \longrightarrow Z^7 + A Z^8 + OR^{10}$$

(IID)
$$R^{11}$$
 Z^9 R^{12}

wherein R^1 to R^{14} each independently represents an alkyl group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms, etc.; Z^1 to Z^{11} each independently represents a single bond, etc.; Z^1 to Z^6 and Z^9 to Z^{11} each independently represents -CF₂O-, etc.; l and m represent 0 or 1; rings A, B, C and D represent a

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trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, etc.; and rings B, C and D represent a trans-1,4-cyclohexenylene group.